



LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-19 (canceled)

- 5 20. (currently amended) A toothbrush of elongate form, comprising bristles,
and so designed as to wherein the toothbrush exhibits, on a flat horizontal
support, at least one position of stable equilibrium in which the longitudinal
direction of the toothbrush is essentially parallel to the support and the
10 bristles lie at a distance from the support and extend toward the support,
wherein the position(s) of stable equilibrium in which the longitudinal
direction of the brush is essentially parallel to the support and the bristles
lie at a distance from the support and extend toward the support is/ are the
only position(s) of stable equilibrium of the brush on the support.
- 15 21. (currently amended) The toothbrush as claimed in claim 20, wherein there
is only one position of stable equilibrium of the brush.
- 20 22. (currently amended) The toothbrush as claimed in claim 20, wherein the
toothbrush comprises:
- a distal portion;
- a proximal portion extending between the bristles and the distal
portion in the longitudinal direction; and
- an intermediate portion between the distal and proximal portions,
25 wherein the brush being so designed that, for any position in which the
toothbrush is supported by a flat horizontal support with the longitudinal
direction essentially parallel to the support, the distal and proximal portions
constitute the portions of contact of the toothbrush with the flat support and
the intermediate portion lying at a distance from the support.
- 30 23. (currently amended) The toothbrush as claimed in claim 22, wherein the
brush is so designed that the proximal portion exhibits a single point of
contact with the support in each one or more positions of stable
equilibrium.
- 35 24. (currently amended) The toothbrush as claimed in claim 22, wherein the
brush is so designed that, for any position in which the brush is supported
by a flat horizontal support with the longitudinal direction essentially
parallel to the support, the proximal portion exhibits a single point of
contact with the support.
- 40 25. (currently amended) The toothbrush as claimed in claim 22, wherein the
proximal portion is of a generally flat shape.
- 45 26. (currently amended) The toothbrush as claimed in claim 22, wherein the
proximal portion is of a generally flat shape in a plane essentially
perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the brush.

27. (currently amended) The toothbrush as claimed in claim 22, wherein the proximal portion is of a generally flat shape in a plane that is essentially inclined with respect to the longitudinal direction of the brush.
- 5 28. (currently amended) The toothbrush as claimed in claim 22, wherein the proximal portion is off-center with respect to a central longitudinal axis of the brush.
- 10 29. (currently amended) The toothbrush as claimed in claim 22, wherein the proximal portion projects from a side of the handle opposite another side of the handle supporting the bristles .
- 15 30. (currently amended) The toothbrush as claimed in claim 29, wherein the proximal portion projects from the handle all the way around a longitudinal axis of the brush.
- 20 31. (currently amended) The toothbrush as claimed in claim 29, wherein the proximal portion forms with the handle a re-entrant edge on a side of the proximal portion situated toward the bristles.
- 25 32. (currently amended) The toothbrush as claimed in claim 29, wherein the proximal portion forms with the handle a re-entrant edge on a side of the proximal portion situated toward the distal portion.
- 30 33. (currently amended) The toothbrush as claimed in claim 22, wherein the proximal portion has an elastomeric outer face.
- 35 34. (currently amended) The toothbrush as claimed in claim 22, wherein ~~the brush is so designed that~~ the distal portion exhibits two points of contact with the support in each one or more positions of stable equilibrium.
36. (canceled)
- 40 37. (currently amended) A toothbrush of elongated form and comprising bristles, wherein ~~it is so designed that~~, when the toothbrush is placed in any initial position on a flat horizontal support, the toothbrush spontaneously adopts a stable position in which the longitudinal direction of the toothbrush is essentially parallel to the support and the bristles lie at a distance from the support and extend toward the support.
- 45 38. (currently amended) The toothbrush as claimed in claim 37, wherein ~~the brush is so designed that~~ the stable position is always the same, whatever the initial position may be.
39. (new) A toothbrush of elongate form comprising:

- bristles;
- a distal portion;
- a proximal portion extending between the bristles and the distal portion in the longitudinal direction; and
5 - an intermediate portion between the distal and proximal portions, wherein the toothbrush exhibits, on a flat horizontal support, at least one position of stable equilibrium in which the longitudinal direction of the brush is essentially parallel to the support and the bristles lie at a distance from the support and extend toward the support, wherein the position(s) of
10 stable equilibrium in which the longitudinal direction of the brush is essentially parallel to the support and the bristles lie at a distance from the support and extend toward the support is/ are the only position(s) of stable equilibrium of the brush on the support, and wherein the distal and
15 proximal portions constitute the portions of contact of the toothbrush with the flat horizontal support.

40. (new) The toothbrush as claimed in Claim 39 wherein the intermediate portion of the toothbrush lies at a distance from the support.

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